

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data playback apparatus comprising a memory which has at least one program data folder each containing a program composed of compressively coded data including at least one video data file, and a management data folder containing management data which include information each indicating attribute information, a playback duration, and title information concerning each program;

a decoding unit for selecting at least one program data folder with referring to the management data on the basis of playback instruction data which are information concerning an instruction of playback of a program, input from outside the apparatus, reading compressively coded data which are stored in the selected program data folder, decoding the same, and outputting decoded data; and

a display unit for displaying the decoded data.

2. The data playback apparatus of Claim 1 wherein

a decryption unit is included between the memory and the decoding unit,

at least part of the compressively coded data is encrypted,

the decoding unit requests compressively coded data from the decryption unit, and

the decryption unit reads the requested compressively

coded data from the memory, carries out decryption, and outputs decrypted compressively coded data to the decoding unit.

3. The data playback apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the management data include information indicating the number of the program data folders and information concerning each program data folder, the number of which information is equal to the number of the program data folders.

4. The data playback apparatus of Claim 3 wherein the decoding unit, on the basis of erasure instruction data input from outside the apparatus, which are information concerning an instruction of erasure of a program, erases the program data folder and data in the program data folder, as well as generates new management data in which the information indicating the number of the program data folders has been updated and the information concerning the program data folder to be erased has been eliminated, and replaces the management data stored in the management data folder with the generated management data.

5. The data playback apparatus of Claim 1 wherein

the program data folder contains playback control data which are information concerning a control of playback of a program stored in the program data folder itself, and

the decoding unit reads the compressively coded data on the basis of the playback control data and decodes the coded data.

6. The data playback apparatus of Claim 1 wherein

the management data include data protection information which is information concerning permission or inhibition of erasure of each program data folder and data in the program data folder, and

the decoding unit receives erasure instruction data which are information concerning an instruction of erasure of a program, from outside the apparatus, and erases a program data folder indicated by the erasure instruction data and data in the program data folder when the data protection information for the program data folder indicated by the erasure instruction data and the data in the program data folder shows the permission of erasure.

7. The data playback apparatus of Claim 1 comprising:

an access information storage unit for reading/writing at least one of number-of-access information indicating the number of times that a program

a chart creation unit for creating a chart by rearranging program data folders on the basis of one of the number-of-access information and the latest access date/time information, and outputting the same to the display unit.

8. The data playback apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the memory is removable.